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VERMONT COINAGE.

WE are indebted to Mr. S. S. CROSBY for his kind permission to reprint the following article on Vermont Coinage from his exhaustive work on "The Early Coins of America," now about completed, and also for the use of the cuts illustrating it.—[EDS.]

THE first State that can be said to have issued a coinage of copper was Vermont,—not one of the original thirteen States, neither was she then considered one of the "United States of America," not having been admitted to the Union until 1791.

A petition was presented by Reuben Harmon, Jr., June 10th, 1785, * * * praying for leave to coin a quantity of copper. * * * A Bill was brought in June 15th, * * * and the record of the passage of this bill occurs upon the same day:—"A bill entitled an Act granting to Reuben Harmon, Jun. Esq^r: a right of coining copper and regulating the same, being concurred by Council, was read, and passed into a law of the State." * * * *

The coins issued by Harmon under this act were of the following descriptions, and constitute the first type of the Vermont coins:

TYPE NO. 1, OBVERSE.

Device,—The sun rising from behind a range of wooded mountains, a plough in the field beneath.

Legend,—VERMONTS . RES . PUBLICA . 1785 .

REVERSE.

Device,—An eye within a small circle, from which issue twenty-six rays, thirteen long, their points intersecting a circle of thirteen stars, and thirteen short, between the stars and the centre.

Legend,—STELLA . QUARTA . DECIMA .

Borders beaded or milled, edge plain; size, 17; weight, 111 grains.
[Fig. 1.]

Of this there are two pairs of dies: on one, one ray of the sun points at the period after RES; in the other, a rarer variety, it points to the right of the period. On the last die a short dash or break usually follows the figure 5, as shown in the cut. A slight break follows DECIMA, on its reverse.

The reverses may be distinguished by the ray nearest the letter Q, which in the first variety points at Q, and on the second, more towards the U.

The next variety has the legend, VERMONTIS . RES . PUBLICA . 1785 . It has no marked peculiarity beyond the legend itself. One ray upon the reverse points at the left part of the Q.

Size, 17 ; weight, 117 grains. [Fig. 2.]

Each of the pieces just described has eight trees on the obverse, and the rays upon the reverses are all cuneiform, or wedge-shaped.

From another pair of dies we have seen but one impression, which is owned by J. Carson Brevoort, of Brooklyn. It is too much worn to represent satisfactorily. The legend on the obverse encircles the device and date ; the hills appear to be thickly wooded, the sun rises at the left—on all others it is at the right—and a line separates the date from the device. Instead of an eye in the centre of the reverse, this has the face of a sun : the rays are single pointed, and composed of fine lines of unequal length. Legends,—VERMONTIS RES PUBLICA and STELLA QUARTA DECIMA.

We have seen two specimens, apparently counterfeits of that last described, but cast, and of very rude workmanship.

1786.

The third variety of this type has the legend, VERMONTENSIMUM . RES . PUBLICA . 1786 . and that of the reverse, STELLA . QUARTA . DECIMA .

Size, 17 ; weight, 123 grains. [Fig. 3.]

This variety is found with three obverse dies, and two of the reverse. Of these, one has seven trees, and the U of PUBLICA double-cut below ; another, nine trees, the U double-cut at the left, and the date close under the ploughshare ; the third has nine trees, and the figure 1 of date double-cut at the right, but much to left of ploughshare. The reverses both have thirteen rays of many fine lines ; one ray of that found with the first obverse, pointing just right of Q, on the other, found with the two other obverses, it points full to left of that letter, and the legend reads,—QUARTA . DECIMA . STELLA .

Before the expiration of the right first granted him, Harmon sent in a petition for the extension of his privilege, * * * which was granted for a farther term of eight years. * * * *

The Legislature having by the terms of the last grant designated new devices and legends to be placed upon the coins, those next issued constitute another type, of which also there are several varieties.

TYPE NO. 2. OBERSE.

Device,—A head, on some facing to the right, on others to the left.

Legend,—VERMON AUCTORI or AUCTORI VERMON

REVERSE.

Device,—The goddess of liberty, seated, facing left, with olive branch and staff.

Legend,—INDE ET LIB

In exergue,—The date,—1786, 1787, or 1788.

Borders serrated, edges plain. * * * *

In size these coins range from 16 to 17, the heavier specimens varying in weight from 120 to 141 grains, and by far the larger portion of them, when

but little worn, exceeding the stipulated weight of 111 grains. [Figs. 4, 5, 6, and 7.]

There are three varieties with the date of 1786, three of 1787, and six of 1788. One of 1786, is known as the "baby head." [See Fig. 4.] The others of that year have heads much like the common varieties of the Connecticut cents. Figure 5 represents their obverse only.

There is little peculiarity to be noted in the coins of 1787, except in one, the obverse of which is from the same die with one of 1786. Its reverse has a break nearly obliterating the date. Figure 6 represents one of this year.

The coins of 1788 are also much alike, with the exception of those punctuated with stars, most of which are quite rare. Figure 7 shows a variety of this date.

We have seen one specimen of this date in brass.

The reverse of one variety of 1788, is found with one of the Connecticut obverses of 1787.

A very rare piece, the origin of which is unknown to us, has for its obverse a die similar to the more common dies of this mint, but with reverse,

Device,—The goddess of liberty, seated, facing right, with scales of justice extended in her left hand; the staff, with liberty cap and flag, in her right.

Legend,—IMMUNE COLUMBIA.

In exergue,—1785.

This piece may have been produced by muling a discarded die of the Vermont mint, with the Immune Columbia. It is accurately represented at Figure 8.

The coins of this mint, and, in fact, those of most, if not all, of the other State mints, are frequently found struck upon other coins,—most commonly British halfpence, though frequently Nova Constellatio, or coins of some other State, producing curious combinations of letters without adding value to the specimens. Upon some of these, the legends and dates of both dies appear.

* * * * *

Reuben Harmon, Jr., came from Suffield, Conn., in company with his father, Reuben Harmon, Senr., about the year 1768, and settled in the North east part of Rupert, Vt. He was a man of some note and influence while there. At a meeting of the inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants, held at Dorset, Sept. 25, 1776, initiatory to their Declaration of Independence, Mr. Reuben Harmon, (probably Jr.) was one of the representatives from Rupert. He was representative in the Vermont Legislature for Rupert in 1780, was justice of the peace from 1780-90, and held several minor offices. In the year 1790 or thereabouts, he left Rupert, for that part of the State of Ohio called New Connecticut, and there died.

His Mint House was located near the north-east corner of Rupert, a little east of the main road leading from Dorset to Pawlet, on a small stream of water called Millbrook, which empties into Pawlet River. It was a small building, about sixteen by eighteen feet, made of rough materials, sided with unplanned and unpainted boards. It is still standing, but its location and uses are entirely different from what they were originally. Its situation at present is on the border of the adjoining town of Pawlet whither it was long since removed, and what was once a coin house is now a corn house.

Colonel William Cooley, who had worked at the goldsmith's trade in the

city of New York, and who afterwards removed to Rupert, made the dies and assisted in striking the coin. * * * *

A letter from Julian Harmon, a grandson of Reuben Harmon above referred to, gives the following additional particulars. "The Mint House stood on Pawlet River, three rods from his father's house—story and a half house, not painted—a furnace in one end for melting copper and rolling the bars, &c.; in the other (west) end, machinery for stamping,—in the centre that for cutting, &c. The stamping was done by means of an iron screw attached to heavy timbers above, and moved by hand through the aid of ropes. Sixty per minute *could* be stamped, although thirty per minute was the usual number. Wm. Buel assisted in striking the coins. Three persons were required for the purpose, one to place the copper, and two to swing the stamp. At first, the coins passed two for a penny, then four—then eight; when it ceased to pay expenses, the British imported so many of the 'Bung Town Coppers,' which were of a much lighter color. My father, Dr. John B. Harmon, also thinks there was a plough upon one side of the coins of his father, who removed to Ohio in 1800, and engaged in making salt, at the 'Salt Spring Tract,' in Weathersfield Township, Trumbull Co., which he continued to his death, Oct. 29, 1806, in his fifty-sixth year." * * * *

In 1787, a manufactory of "hardware," known as Machin's Mills, was established at New Grange, Ulster County, now Newburgh, N. Y., the principal purpose of which is supposed to have been the coinage of copper.

This mint had no legal connection with that of Vermont, but its managers had business relations with the persons conducting the coinage of that State, and the little known of its history is so interwoven with that of the coiners of the Vermont money, that we introduce the papers relating to it.

Eager writes, (History of Orange County,) "Orange Lake * * * was also called Machen's Pond. Captain Machen first opened the outlet of the pond, and erected a manufactory to make coppers for change and circulation. * * *

"Capt. Machen, we believe, was an Englishman, and came out before the Revolution as an officer in the British service. During the war he entered the American army as an engineer, and was employed by Congress in 1777, in erecting fortifications in the Highlands, and in stretching the chain across the river at West Point. After the war he came and located at the pond. His operations there, as they were conducted in secret, were looked upon at that time with suspicion, as illegal and wrong."

Mr. Bushnell supplies some interesting information relative to this coining establishment. He says:—

"The Mint House, at Newburgh, Ulster County, N. Y., was situated on the east side of Machin's Lake or Pond, about one eighth of a mile distant from the pond. The building was erected in 1784, by Thomas Machin, and was still standing in 1792, at which time the rollers, press and cutting machine were taken out. The coins were struck by means of a large bar loaded at each end with a five hundred pound ball, with ropes attached. Two men were required on each side, making four in all, to strike the pieces, besides a man to set the planchets. The metal of which the coins were struck, was composed of old brass cannon and mortars, the zinc being extracted from the copper by smelting in a furnace. About sixty of the coins were struck a

minute. The sloop 'Newburgh,' (Capt. Isaac Belknap,) carried for a number of years the coining press, as part ballast. The coins were made by James F. Atlee. Many of them bore the obverse *GEORGIUS III.* and reverse *INDE ET LIB.* Others bore the figure of a plough on one side. The mint ceased operations in the year 1791."

It is supposed that the coins here mentioned as bearing the figure of a plough, were some of the Vermont coins with that device, and there is strong reason to believe that Atlee, who is said to have made the dies of all the coins struck at Newburgh, made dies for others of the Vermont coins.

The pieces with the obverse *GEORGIUS III.* are of two varieties: the head upon the first of these closely resembles that upon the more common varieties of the Vermont coins; its legend is, *GEORGIUS • III • REX •*

The reverse is from a die * * * found upon coins attributed both to Vermont and Connecticut.

The other, a more common variety of this piece, has a smaller head, and the legend *GEORGIUS III. REX.*

The reverse of this is identical with that found upon two pieces classed as Connecticut coins. The legend is *INDE • ET • LIB •*

We have found this reverse die in its perfect condition, used with the obverse just described: it next appears, with cracks across I and B, with an * *AUCTORI. CONNEC •* face to right, until this obverse die became useless by reason of a break; it is again found, and in a still more defective condition, now having breaks in E of ET, at the foot of the goddess, and a slight crack at her chin, used with the *GEORGIUS III. REX.*, and lastly, as proved by the extension of the breaks already noted, particularly that at the foot of the goddess, it is found with obverse • *AUCTORI • • CONNEC •* face to left. Here its endurance seems to have been exhausted, as the break last mentioned is so extended as to render it probable that it could have been of little further service.

It is probable, judging from the facts just noted, that many pieces now classed as Connecticut coins, are counterfeits from this mint; and it is not unlikely that the *VERMON AUCTORI* with reverse *BRITANNIA •* as well as many of the counterfeit halfpence of George III., formed part of the "hardware" manufactured at Newburgh.

THE ADVANTAGES OF HOARDING.

WITH what a feeling of contemptuous pity have we read of the hoards of hard money, saved up in chests or old stockings, by persons of parsimonious habits. The elementary teachings of political economy proclaim the impolicy of such deposits, and they are presumptive evidence of a miserly disposition. Yet the habit of storing away gold and silver money is so common in the world, that it is obviously the dictate of some general conviction of the greater security of that form of accumulations, over investments of whatever nature. Banks may break; paper securities of every kind are liable to various accidents; but the precious metals are well-nigh indestructible, and retain their value and currency though business flags, and empires are dismembered.

A curious proof of the prevalence of the habit of hoarding metallic money has recently been afforded in France. All classes in that country have been

required to make extraordinary efforts to raise the amounts of the heavy indemnity paid to Germany, and the other expenses of the Franco-Prussian war. The result has been to develop a store of wealth in the country which was entirely unexpected. It was observed with astonishment that the immense sums needed were obtained with comparative ease. It was also noted that an extraordinary amount of specie currency was in the possession of the masses of the people. The fact was that the inhabitants had in the exigency made a general draft upon the reserves of coin, which in more prosperous times they had been gradually laying up at their homes. And the result of this unlooked for husbanding of their resources was that the people, instead of being prostrated for a generation by the weight of their war debt, were able to meet its imperative demands promptly and without actual suffering.

Another fact in connection with this matter is worthy of the attention of numismatologists. A large share of the money which came to light in France out of these domestic crypts, was of the coinage of Louis XV and XVI and earlier, and was as fresh and unworn as on the day when it left the mint. This proves that the hoarding system has been pursued for more than one or even two generations; that coins newly issued are preferred for preservation; and that the deposits are never encroached upon except when a financial crisis in the family or the nation leaves no alternative.

Collectors of coins, who have so often had occasion to lament the difficulty of procuring unimpaired specimens of the older pieces, will certainly not condemn with much severity a practice which tends to preserve the productions of the die in such perfection. And in view of the strong probability that nine parts of the money in question would have been squandered if it had not been hoarded, this leaf from the current history of France shows that the habit of private accumulations of the precious metals among the community, ought neither to be despised nor discouraged.

C. H. B.

PRESENTATION OF THE MEXICAN WAR MEDALS.

IN 1848, the Common Council of the city of New York ordered medals to be stricken off and presented to the surviving members of the First Regiment of New York Volunteers in the Mexican war. These numbered over four hundred. About forty of the medals somehow became missing, and that number of the veterans have been unable until to-day to get their medals. Two weeks ago, General Pinckney, Clerk of the Common Council, found the missing medals in an old safe, and notified the Board of Aldermen, who passed a resolution that the medals be given to the persons for whom they were intended. Colonel Kerrigan set about hunting up his old comrades, but only succeeded in finding five—Captain John Cook, of the Adjutant-General's office, at Albany; David W. Dyckman, of the Sanitary squad; Peter Waters, George F. Stringer and Jacob Childs. These persons, together with General Ward B. Burnett, who commanded the regiment, met to-day in General Pinckney's office to receive the medals, and the six veterans returned thanks to General Pinckney for his exertions in their behalf.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, October 20, 1874.

ANCIENT BRITISH COINS.

It is confessed by those who have studied the coins of the ancient Britons that we are, at present, without sufficient information to enable us to attempt their precise chronological or geographical classification. We have the assurance of Cæsar that the Britons had not a coinage of their own at the period of his invasion, and on this authority Eckhel maintained that they were unacquainted with a stamped currency until a late period of the Roman empire. Even in the addenda to his great work, he hesitates to admit the claim of Britain to a primitive coinage. Mionnet, though the means of inquiry were within his reach, adopts the opinion of Eckhel, and accordingly ranges many unquestionable British coins under the head "Chefs Gaulois;" yet most of his examples are quoted from English works! Sestini notices the absurdity of this classification, and cites the coins inscribed CAMV. and VERLAMIO as pertaining to Britain.

It has been maintained that the passage in Cæsar has been corrupted, and an early MS. has been cited as furnishing evidence that the Britons were acquainted with the use of stamped money; but as the editors of Cæsar could have had no object in wilfully corrupting this well-known passage, and as the most approved MSS. negative such a supposition, it is submitted that implicit reliance cannot be placed on deviations from the statement of the usually received text.

It would appear, that while some numismatists have denied the existence of an early British coinage, others have claimed for it a higher antiquity than can be proved by existing examples.

A considerable number of coins have been well known to English antiquaries during the last two centuries, and have been unhesitatingly ascribed to Cunobelinus, the British prince mentioned by Dion Cassius and by Suetonius. Most of these pieces bear the abbreviation of the name, CVN or CVNO; but one variety has CVNOBELINVS REX, which leaves no doubt of the correctness of the appropriation. On the reverses of some, the letters TASC occur, while others have TASCIOVANI and TASCIOVANI F. It would be tedious to recite the opinions which have been gravely expressed as to the meaning of this portion of the the legend, that proposed by Mr. Birch being the only one entitled to consideration. Mr. Birch, placing the legends of obverse and reverse together, suggests that Cunobelinus used the Latin formula, "Cæsar divi f.," and that, accordingly, we should read, "Cunobelinus, son of Tasciovanus." The only difficulty in the way of this proposed reading is the name of *Tasciovanus*, which is not found in the Roman historians, nor in Beda, nor Gildas, and which bears no analogy to those given by Geoffrey of Monmouth and the other fabulous chroniclers of British history.

Should the reading proposed by Mr. Birch be admitted, we shall not hesitate to render the inscription of another coin EPPILLVS COM. F. — *Eppillus, son of Comius*.

Cæsar distinctly says, that that portion of Britain which he terms *Cantium* was ruled by petty kings, four of whom attacked his legions on their first landing in Britain. He also speaks of *Comius*, Prince of the Atrebatas, as a person of great authority in the island. How far this influence extended we cannot ascertain; but the fact that there were a people called *Atrebatas*, both in Gaul

and on the northern coast of Kent, seems to favor the conjecture, that some of the family of Comius actually reigned in Britain. If this be admitted, the coins inscribed EPPILLVS COMI. F.—TINC. COM. F. and VIR. COM. F. would appear to have been struck by the children of Comius, to whom portions of Cantium were awarded, and which they ruled as petty princes. Such a supposition receives weight from the fact of the known policy of the Romans in their acquisition of foreign territory. Tacitus shows that they used tributary kings as the instruments of enslaving the people they were supposed to rule, these personages being virtually nothing more than the satraps of the emperors, entirely obedient to their will, though enjoying the title of *Rex*.

Numismatists will ask, if this explanation be received, why the British princes caused their money to be formed on the Greek, and not on the Roman model? To this we may reply, that the money of Julius Cæsar, of the Triumvirs, and of Augustus, differs in style as much, or more, from that of the succeeding reigns as these British coins from the then contemporaneous Roman currency, much of which was, in all probability, executed by Greek artists. In one respect the deviation from Greek and Roman models is remarkably striking, namely, in the oblong tablet, a peculiarity not observed on Gaulish coins, but the equestrian figure is common, both on the Greek and Roman money. It would answer no useful purpose to attempt to supply the names of two of these presumed sons of *Comius*. Of that of the other, *Eppillus*, on a coin in the British Museum, there can be no doubt, and there is every reason to believe that EPPI. and IPPI. are abbreviations of the same name. TINC. and VIRI. may readily suggest two latinised Celtic names; but no such names as those of which these letters would form a part occur in Cæsar's account of Britain, and the perfecting of them must therefore be left to the chance of future discovery.

It will be seen that the coins inscribed EPPI. and IPPI. are always found in Kent, in the territory of the British Atrebates, while those with TINC. or VIRI. are discovered in Sussex and Hants, facts which seem strongly to support the conjecture, that they were issued by princes ruling in different parts of the island.

* * * * *

A long and careful study of ancient British coins has gradually led me to form an opinion much opposed to that which I entertained on my first acquaintance with the subject. I do not hesitate to avow this, seeing that a very able French numismatist has modified his views with regard to the coins of Gallia. Diligent inspection and comparison of every specimen that has fallen in my way has at length inclined me to think that Cæsar's account has been correctly handed down to us, and that the Britons had not a stamped currency of their own at the period of his first invasion. This belief is founded on evidence afforded by actual examples of British coins. It is now no longer supposed that the rudest coins are the earliest specimens of ancient British money,—a supposition so well calculated to embarrass the inquiry; on the contrary, those who are practically acquainted with the subject, know that the rudest examples are barbarous imitations of pieces of better execution, and that the gradations of a corrupted type are, on comparing several pieces, easily discernible. Thus, what was once a tolerably well defined laureated human head, becomes in the next copy a rude imitation of the same object, which in its turn is again more rudely represented, until at length the original design is lost in a barbarous

and disjointed collection of objects, the meaning of which was but imperfectly understood by the last copyist, and can only be divined by comparison with earlier and more perfect examples. The greater part of these coins are uninscribed, and those which have a few straggling letters furnish indisputable evidence of their being rude copies. From the descent of Cæsar to the invasion of Claudius is a considerable period, sufficiently long to account for the striking of vast numbers of rude coins in imitation of pieces of better execution, many of which may have been produced by native workmen and issued without authority. The inefficacy of the severe laws enacted by civilized states against forgers of the public money shows how difficult it is to stay the issue of spurious coin; and it is not reasonable to suppose that Britain at this period was free from a vice which there is abundant reason to believe was almost coeval with the invention of coinage, and of which many examples may be cited in the primitive money of the Gauls and Britons.—*J. Y. Akerman.*

MORE ABOUT THE DOLLAR MARK.

THE origin of the Dollar mark we presume is one of those subjects that will never be settled beyond controversy, but a recent contribution to the literature of this subject deserves some attention. Not long since the *American Historical Record* had a query on the point, and the September (1874) number of that magazine reprints an article written in reply by Mr. E. P. Fulton, which appeared in the *Baltimore American* on the 3d of June last. His theory, like that of the writer of the article from the *Atlantic Monthly*, quoted in our last number, (see page 33,) is that it arose from the two pillars anciently known as the "pillars of Hercules." He says:—

"The adventurous Tyrian navigators * * * * * laid the foundations of the great commercial metropolis of the West, and named it Gades—now Cadiz. The device of the two pillars was stamped upon the coins of their native Tyre; they perpetuated it upon their own coinage, and set up in the new city two pillars, one of gold and one of silver. These were the actual pillars of Hercules, Melcarthus or Heraclæ being the leader of the expedition that founded Gades. Afterwards the union of the colony with its parent Tyre was signified by the scroll twined around and crossing the uprights, and so the emblem remained until the fall of Tyre."

In the course of his essay, Mr. Fulton declares that "the dollar mark is the oldest symbol known to the human race." When one pronounces the dollar mark the "oldest symbol known to the human race," without qualification, we hardly know which to admire more, the profound knowledge of symbols and symbolism which such a declaration involves, or the profounder knowledge of ethnology, which decides so many disputed points in a word. Mr. Saffell, another correspondent of the *Record*, had supported the theory, in a communication printed in the June number, that it was "a rude union of the letter P with the figure of 8," and signified "pieces of eight" or Spanish milled dollars, which were divided into eight parts or pieces, called eleven penny bits, or "levies." Mr. Fulton gives us his opinion of this theory very briefly in the following words:—"His theory [Mr. Saffell's] is so curiously in

error that we notice it for the purpose of showing how limited is the knowledge of many of those who can lay some claim to the title of reading men concerning the results of particular branches of study."

In the course of his article, Mr. Fulton says the same emblem (the symbol of the pillars) "can be found prominent among all the nations of the East, both before and after the glory and supremacy of Tyre. The Hebrews and Freemasons have traditions of the pillars of Jachin and Boaz in Solomon's Temple, and the emblem which there seems to have had almost a sacred significance in the minds of the Jews, was equally precious to the pagan Tyrians two hundred years before Solomon built the Temple. Still further back in the remote ages, we find the earliest known origin of the symbol in connection with the Deity. It was a type of reverence with the first people of the human race who worshipped the sun on the plains of Central Asia, and its two routes of descent may be followed through Greek and Scandinavian Mythology." We have not space to reprint the whole of this article, but we invite comparison between it and the article from the *Atlantic* already mentioned, and think our readers will notice a most singular resemblance between the two, while they will fail to discover any reference by the writer quoted in the *Record* to the pages of the *Atlantic*.

One more assertion, for which we should be glad to see the authority, is too remarkable to be kept from our readers. Mr. Fulton says:—"For our common currency in this nineteenth century, we are employing an indication that the sellers of the products of Tyrian looms *recorded in their books* (!) as they jingled the gold and silver of the barbarians in exchange for their silks and velvets. As they stood upon the shore seeing the

"Argosies of magic sails
Pilots of the purple twilight, dropping down with costly bales,"

they calculated their profits and bargains in pieces of money that bore the same mark as our symbol of that metallic currency which, alas! seems to have flown from us on eagles' wings." We are not quite sure whether the last clause of this extract is intended for a joke, or is "spoke sarkastical," as the lamented Artemus Ward used to say. The whole passage, however, shows a brilliant and poetic imagination, outshining the brightest of those golden eagles whose departure he so touchingly laments.

Q. Z.

Editors of the Journal of Numismatics:

HAVING read the article on the dollar mark which was in the last number of the *Journal*, I was reminded of another explanation of it which was published in the *Advertiser* some years since, and have copied it below for the *Journal*.

R. S.

A suggestion was once made that the dollar mark "\$" is an abridgment of the letters "U. S." meaning United States, but the mark was used long before the United States of North America were thought of. It is probably the sign of a piece of 8 "reals"—that is to say, "ninepences," and the crosses through it are to show that the figure 8 is not to be counted as part of the sum. The "pieces of eight," recollected by all readers of Robinson Crusoe, were Spanish dollars, and the mark now used for the dollar means that that piece is worth eight reals.

SWISS MEDAL OF AGASSIZ.

FRITZ LANDRY of Neufchatel, Switzerland, a pupil of the medallist Antoine Bovy, has made a die of the head of Agassiz, and medals are to be struck at Geneva. Around the head is written, "L. Agassiz, 1807-1873. On the other side, between two branches of laurel, are the words, "Viro ingenio, labore scientiæ, præstantissimo."

LINCOLN MEDALS.

Editors of the Journal of Numismatics:

THOSE of your readers who have had occasion to consult Zabriskie's Catalogue of Lincoln Medals, have probably noticed that it contains some errors, the most serious of which is in the description of the Bovy Medal, No. 9, where that part of the inscription on the reverse, which Zabriskie gives as "Emancipation of Slavery Proclamation" is, at least in all the pieces that I have seen, "Abolition of Slavery Proclaimed": and they have probably also noticed that the list is far from complete. I give below a list of one hundred and ten Lincoln Medals not in Zabriskie, from my collection and from the collection of Mr. S. S. Crosby, which he has kindly allowed me to examine for this purpose. It will be seen that I have described seven medals new on both sides, thirty-one more new on one side, and twelve new combinations of previously described obverses and reverses, the remainder being varieties in metal. The mischievous practice of muling seems to have been carried to a greater extent than ever before. As this is a mere appendix to Mr. Zabriskie's list, I have followed his example in cataloguing the varieties in metal as separate medals, but I do not approve of the practice. The real number of medals described by Zabriskie is one hundred and nine, and the number described by me is thirty-eight, making in all one hundred and forty-seven. I hope that some of the owners of Lincoln Medals not in Zabriskie's list, or this appendix to it, will describe them, and thus assist in the compilation of a complete list, which is much to be desired.

My attention has been called to No. 2882 in the Mickley Catalogue, which seems to be the same as the Canadian Medal described by me in your last number.

H. W. H.

Cambridge, Oct. 27, 1874.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 188. Same as 15, but in bronze. Size 40. | 200. Same as last, but in bronze. Size 22. |
| 189. " 24, " " " 25. | 201. " 47, " " " 22. |
| 190. " 26, " brass. " 25. | 202. <i>Ob.</i> same as the <i>obv.</i> of 47. <i>Rev.</i> same as the <i>obv.</i> of 34. Silver. Size 22. |
| 191. <i>Ob.</i> same as the <i>rev.</i> of 19. <i>Rev.</i> same as the <i>rev.</i> of 28. White metal. Size 24. | 203. Same as last, but in white metal. Size 22. |
| 192. Same as 32, but in copper. Size 24. | 204. " 55, " copper. " 20. |
| 193. " 33, " silver. " 21. | 205. " 56, " white metal. " 20. |
| 194. " 34, " bronze. " 22. | 206. " 60, " tin. " 19. |
| 195. " 41, " " " 22. | (In the description of the <i>rev.</i> of 69 Zabriskie omits, I think, the two 4's one after each word "March.") |
| 196. " 43, " " " 22. | 207. <i>Ob.</i> Head of Lincoln to right. "Abraham Lincoln, president of the U. S." <i>Rev.</i> "Born Feb. 12. 1809—First Inaug. March 4 th 1861 Second Inaug. March 4 th 1865—Died Apr. 15. 1865" surrounded by a circle of alternate eagles and stars. White metal. Size 19. |
| 197. " 44, " " " 22. | 208. <i>Ob.</i> same as <i>obv.</i> of 70. The <i>rev.</i> is similar to |
| 198. " 46, " " " 22. | |
| 199. <i>Ob.</i> Heads of Lincoln and Hamlin facing to the left. "Abraham Lincoln" "Hannibal Hamlin." <i>Rev.</i> "Republican candidates for president and vice president. 1860" in a wreath of oak. Dies by F. B. Smith. Silver. Size 22. | |

- the rev. of 70, but has eight flags instead of six, and "1864" is on the shield below the inscription. Copper. Size 19.
209. *Ob.* same as last. *Rev.* Head of Sherman, three-quarter face. "Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman" White metal. Size 19.
210. *Ob.* same as last. *Rev.* Head of McClellan to right. "Major General G. B. McClellan 1864" Copper. Size 19.
211. Same as last, but in white metal. Size 19.
212. *Ob.* same as last. *Rev.* Head of McClellan to left, surrounded by a wreath. Overhead "Maj. Gen. Geo. B. McClellan" Copper. Size 19½.
213. Same as last, but in white metal. Size 19.
214. *Ob.* same as last. *Rev.* Urn with "A. L." on it. Above "Resurgam": and below "Died April 15 1865" White metal. Size 19.
- (On the reverse of 71, there is besides the legend and stars described by Zabriskie, within the stars, "May the Union flourish", the word "Union" being written in a sort of monogram.)
215. *Ob.* same as obv. of 73. *Rev.* "Made from Copper taken from the ruins of the Turpentine Works, Newbern, N. C. Destroyed by the Rebels March 14, 1862" Copper. Size 17.
216. *Ob.* same as last. *Rev.* "Jos. H. Merriam, Die Sinker 18 Brattle Square Boston Medals struck in Gold Silver Copper or Tin" and a miniature representation of a gold dollar. Copper. Size 19.
217. Same as last, but in brass. Size 19.
218. Same as last, but in white metal. Size 19.
219. *Ob.* Bust of Lincoln to right. "Ab. Lincoln the Preserver of his Country", Star. *Rev.* Bust of Washington to right. "George Washington the Father of his Country", Star. Rubber. Size 20.
220. *Ob.* same as obv. of 80. *Rev.* Head of Washington to right. "Chas. K. Warner Dealer in American & Foreign Medals 728 Chestnut St. Philada.:" and two stars. (This is the same I believe as the rev. of 102, which I think is imperfectly described.) Copper. Size 17.
221. *Ob.* same as last. *Rev.* "Ornamental Medal & Seal Die Sinkers &c. &c. 329 Arch St. Phila." on scrolls, with stars scattered over the field. (This rev. is the same I think as the rev. of 105, which seems imperfectly described.) Copper. Size 17.
222. Same as last, but in brass. Size 17.
223. " " " " white metal. Size 17.
224. *Ob.* same as last. *Rev.* same as rev. of 108. Copper. Size 17.
225. Same as 90, but in copper. Size 17.
226. Same as last, but in nickel. Size 17.
- (There are many varieties of Key's Medals, 91, 92, and 104, differing principally in the clouds and rays on the reverse, but the differences are too numerous and too slight for description.)
227. *Ob.* same as obv. of 91. *Rev.* same as rev. of 105 and 221. White metal. Size 17.
228. *Ob.* same as last. *Rev.* same as rev. of 107. White metal. Size 17.
229. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* Monitor, wreath and star. "Monitor 1862" Copper. Size 17.
230. Same, but in brass. Size 17.
231. Same, but in white metal. Size 17.
232. *Ob.* same as obv. of 93. *Rev.* an eagle with a shield on its breast, and around it "United States of America" Brass. Size 17.
233. *Ob.* an eagle perching on a mortar. On a scroll in its beak, "Established A. D. 1825". *Rev.* same as rev. of 93. Copper. Size 17.
234. *Ob.* Head of Kossuth to left. "Louis Kossuth the Washington of Hungary-1852". *Rev.* same as rev. of 93.
235. Same as 97, but in white metal. Size 18.
236. Same as 100, but in copper. (This piece was struck in several alloys ranging from apparently pure copper to brass. The inscription on the obv. is "President Lincoln", not "President Lincoln" as Zabriskie has it. I hesitate to describe a German whistle counter as a medal.)
- (I think 101 has the head on the obv. always to the left, and not to the right as the catalogue gives it.)
237. Same as 104, but in white metal. Size 17.
238. " 106, " " 17. (The rev. has a branch of laurel and a branch of oak crossed and tied, below the inscription.)
239. *Ob.* Head of Washington to right. "George Washington—First in war, First in Peace—and First in the Hearts of his Countrymen" *Rev.* Head of Lincoln to left. "Reverse," six stars, "Lincoln" and six more stars. Silver. Size 17.
240. *Ob.* Head of Lincoln to right, and around it Star "Abraham Lincoln" Star, "Born Feb. 12, 1809." *Rev.* Wreath, with a star between the tips. Within it a star "Free Homes for Free Men", star, "No more slave Territory"; and nearly in the middle of the field is a rose. Grey Terra Cotta. Size 17.
241. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* Wreath and star, and in the wreath a section of a log fence and an axe. "Protection to Honest Industry" Terra Cotta. Size 17.
242. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* blank. Green clay. Size 17.
243. Same as 122, but in copper. Size 16.
244. " 124, " " 16.
245. " 124, " brass. " 16.
246. " 125, " copper. " 15.
247. *Ob.* same as obv. of 126. *Rev.* Hat "James E. Wolff. No 17 Sycamore St. Petersburg, Va.:" Copper. Size 16.
248. Same as last, but in white metal. Size 16.
249. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* "Chas. K. Warner. Dealer in American & Foreign Coins & Medals. 326 Chestnut St. Phila.:" Copper. Size 16.
250. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* Shield with two laurel branches curving round it. "National Union League of the United States 1863." Copper. Size 16.
251. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* same as rev. of 104 with the edge off. Copper. Size 16.
252. Same as last, but in brass. Size 16. (The rev. of each of the last two is badly struck.)
253. Same as 128, but in silver. Size 16.
- (In the Catalogue the legends on 131 and 132 are omitted. They should read I think "For President" &c., as in 133.)
254. Same as 133, but in tin. Size 14.
255. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* Head of Breckinridge to left. "For President John C. Breckinridge of Ky." Copper. Size 14.
256. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* Shield "The Union must and shall be preserved." Copper. Size 14.
257. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* Palm, cannon, cotton bales, rays, and stars. "No submission to the North 1860" Copper. Size 14.
258. Same in tin. Size 14.
259. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* Group of growing rice, tobacco, sugar, and cotton. "The Wealth of the South. Rice Tobacco Sugar Cotton" Copper. Size 14.
260. Same in tin. Size 14.
- (There were four entirely different presidential medals of this set, one for each candidate; and it will be seen that the Lincoln obverse was muled with each of the other obverses and reverses, thus making seven types with the Lincoln obverse. I presume that each type was struck in three metals.)
- (138 I have not seen without a projection holding a ring.)
261. *Ob.* same as obv. of 136. *Rev.* Indian head to right, surrounded by thirteen stars. Brass. Size 14.

262. Same in white metal. Size 14.
 263. *Ob.* same, struck on a large concave planchet. *Rev.* blank. White metal. Size 23.
 264. *Ob.* "Old Abe" in German capitals surrounded by an ivy wreath. *Rev.* Man, woman and child all in antique costume, a flaming altar and a leafless tree. Brass. Size 14.
 265. Same as 143, but in brass. Size 14.
 266. "144, but with a milled edge and projection holding a ring. Tin gilt. Size 13 x 15.
 (145 has "Lewis Joy" and not "Lewis Loy" on the rev.)
 267. Same as 145, but in brass. Size 12.
 268. Same as 146, but in white metal. Size 12.
 269. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* Head of Washington to left. "Represented by Wm. Leggett Bramhall." Copper. Size 12.
 270. *Ob.* same as rev. of the last described. *Rev.* same as rev. of 150. Copper. Size 12.
 271. *Ob.* same as obv. of 146. *Rev.* "Robbins Royce & Hard Wholesale Dealers in Dry Goods, 70 Reade St. New York." Copper. Size 12.
 272. Same, but in white metal. Size 12.
 273. Same as 157, but in silver. Size 12.
 274. Same, but in bronze. Size 12.
 275. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* Head of Washington three-quarter face. "Born Feb. 22 1732. Died Dec. 14 1799." White metal. Size 12.
 276. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* same as obv. of 176. White metal. Size 12.
 277. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* "Abraham Lincoln an honest man The Crisis demands his Reelection 1864" White metal. Size 12.
 278. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* Wreath, and within it "Born Feb. 12. 1809. Assassinated April 14, 1865." Silver. Size 12.
 279. Same as 161, but in silver. Size 12.
 280. "164, "copper. Size 12.
 281. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* Wreath, two cannons and two stars. "No Compromise with armed Traitors" Nickel. Size 12.
 282. *Ob.* same as obv. of 165. *Rev.* same as rev. of 173. Copper. Size 12.
 283. Same, but in brass. Size 12.
 284. Same, but in nickel. Size 12.
 285. Same, but in white metal. Size 12.
 286. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* "S. P. Sedgwick & Co. Variety Goods, Bloomingdale Ill." Copper. Size 12.
 287. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* Equestrian statue of Washington. "First in War, First in Peace 1863" Nickel. Size 12.
 288. Same in copper. Size 12.
 289. Same as 166, but in copper. Size 12.
 290. "171 " " " 12.
 291. "173 " " " 12.
 292. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* same as 281. Copper. Size 12.
 293. Same as 176, but in nickel. Size 12.
 294. *Ob.* same as obv. of 176. *Rev.* same as rev. of 275. Copper. Size 12.
 295. *Ob.* same. *Rev.* same as rev. of 278. White metal. Size 12.
 296. Same as 183, but in silver. Size 12.
 297. Same, but in bronze. Size 12.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME DOLLAR.

THE article on the Dollar Mark in the October number, has induced a correspondent to send us the following newspaper cutting:—

THE Emperor Sigismund granted to Jasper Schlick the rank of Count and the right to coin money in 1432, on account of the rich silver mines discovered on his estates of Michelsberg and Joachimsthal. Jasper died without issue, and his brother Matthew continued in possession of the same rights with his three sons, one of whom, Jasper Schlaekenwerth, had four sons, Stephen, Jerome, Henry, and Lawrence, who on finding the richness of the silver mines to increase, began to coin in 1517, larger pieces of money, called Joachims-thaler Gueldengroschen, (literally Gildengroth, issued from the valley of St. Joachim.) In the course of time the people found the name too long, and at first the name of Gueldengroschen was left out, then that of the saint: finally, the pieces of one ounce or nearly so, were simply called *Thaler*, (from valley.) As early as in 1551, the name *thaler* is to be found alone in the regulations on coinage of the Emperor Ferdinand I.

As the piece of Count Schlick, struck in 1517, is the origin of the 'Almighty Dollar,' it will not be out of place to describe it in full, and even to blazon it, or explain its armorial bearings.

Obverse. LVDOVICVS PRIMVS DEI GRACIA—REX: BO: *hemia*. The crowned Bohemian lion from the left hand side.

Reverse. —ARMA DOMINORUM SLICHIORUM STEPHANI Z FRATRUM COMITUM DE BASAN. St. Joachim in full stature, his head covered and in his right hand

a travelling staff. On the sides s—j (Sanctus Joachimus.) At the feet of the saint, the family coat of arms of the Count of Schlick. A four quartered shield; on the first and fourth quarters, a golden lion holding a silver church in a blue field, for the County of Weisenkirchen. In the second and third quarters, in a red field, a silver triangle, in it a red ring and two silver ones in the field, for the County of Bassan. In the middle shield a red tower with battlements and open gate, supported on each side by a griffin, for the County of Schlick. The coin is of nearly the size and weight of a French five franc piece.

If in that remote time the richness of a few silver mines could produce such a change as to introduce generally larger pieces of coin for circulation instead of the smaller ones in use till then, what was not to be expected from the inexhaustible richness of the mines of California. * * * Perhaps in a future article it may be suggested what ought to have been done to take advantage of those marvellous gold sources of California and Australia, in order to introduce some better arrangement for the circulation of coins.

[From an old number of the *National Intelligencer*, Washington, D. C.]

A MEDAL OF PERTINAX.

[From the "Rome Correspondence" of the "Boston Daily Advertiser."]

A LABORER found, a fortnight ago, in the environs of Palombara, a large Medal, which had on the reverse the funeral of Pertinax. He sold it for ten francs to the man who keeps the cigar and tobacco shop which is in the Piazza Barberini, near the corner house made famous by Hans Christian Andersen in the "Improvisatore," and also as the residence of Margaret Fuller. (This shop is well known; it is the rendezvous of the Campagna men, who come to Rome on Sunday and congregate in this piazza, where they make their working engagements for the coming week.) The next day the cigar dealer sold the Medal to Signor Fasenati for five hundred francs. Now, the chief Vatican medalist is in treaty with Signor Fasenati; he offers fifteen hundred francs for the Medal.

THE TRADE DOLLAR.

THE United States Mint in San Francisco is said to be coining about twenty thousand daily of the new Trade Dollar, which is so favorably received in the East that it is rapidly taking the place of the old Mexican Dollar, and is affording a market also for silver bars. It is reported that the demand is increasing, and all that the mint can supply are at once taken up. The San Francisco papers regard it as a valuable aid to the merchants of that city in their efforts to control the tea trade.

In this connection we add the following "clipping":—"The Chinese merchant now contemplates his pile of American Trade Dollars with satisfaction. The Chinese commercial mind has found this new Trade Dollar to be fully worth its face, and like the Mexican dollar, it is being rapidly absorbed, to disappear from the United States totally and absolutely. The American

piece made its appearance in the Chinese hongs almost unheralded; its bright, finished look operated as a good introduction; it has proved the 'open sesame' to Chinese storehouses. But now the British Government, we are told, comes forward and says that it is disposed to go into the trade-dollar business itself, and a demand goes home from Hong Kong for a coinage of that description. It is galling that an American token should be the circulating medium in an English colony. So we are likely to have competition in the trade-dollar business. The average English merchant knows that the Spanish dollar captured the affections of the Celestial, because it was worth one or two cents more than its face. The American Trade Dollar is the next thing to the Spanish dollar, and the price of goods is cheaper in this currency than in any other."

COIN ADDITIONS TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

THE *London Academy* states that some important additions by purchase have lately been made to the coin department of the British Museum. The Greek collection has been enriched by the acquisition, through Messrs. Rollin and Feuarent, of Mr. Addington's Greek Imperial coins, and a selection of Phrygian and other Asiatic coins of the same class from a collector in the Levant. M. Castellani has furnished some hitherto entirely unknown specimens of Italian æs grave, apparently of a weight superior to the libral, and rarities of the imperial series, including the pick of a recent find of silver pieces on the Esquiline. The class of imperial gold has been enriched by large additions from the Robert collection, procured by Messrs. Rollin and Feuarent. In the Oriental series, the very rare dinar of A. H. 77, the first struck with purely Moslem types, has been acquired from Mr. Rogers, late British Consul at Cairo, besides some extremely curious Arabic gold pieces and Byzantine and Arab glass money from another collector.

CONNECTICUT CURRENCY IN 1704.

THEY give the title of merchant to every trader; who Rate their Goods according to the time and Spetia they pay in; viz: Pay, mony, Pay as mony; and trusting. *Pay* is Grain, Pork, Beef &c. at the prices sett by the General Court that Year; *mony* is pieces of Eight, Ryalls, or *Boston or Bay shillings* (as they call them,) or Good hard money, as sometimes silver coin is termed by them; also Wampom, vizt Indian beads w^{ch} serves for change. *Pay as mony* is provisions, as afores^d, one third cheaper than as the Assembly or Gene^l Court sets it; and *Trust* as they and the merch^t agree for time.

Now, when the buyer comes to ask for a comodity, sometimes before the merchant answers that he has it, he sais, *is Your pay ready?* Perhaps the Chap Reply's, Yes: what do You pay in; say's the merchant. The buyer having answered, then the price is set; as suppose he wants a sixpenny knife, in pay it is 12^d—in pay as money eight pence, and hard money its own price, viz 6^d.

Madam Knight's Journal. 1704.

ARMADA MEDALS.

THE Spanish Armada, which Philip of Spain had the audacity to term invincible, was wrecked by such a tempest as the oldest mariners had never before witnessed. The remnant of the ships which escaped the terrible storm were soon obliged to succumb to English valor, and Albion again resumed her sovereignty of the ocean. Of the Armada were taken and destroyed, in July and August, fifteen great ships and four thousand seven hundred and ninety-one men in the fight between the English and the Spanish navies in the Channel; and on the coast of Ireland, in September, seventeen ships and five thousand three hundred and ninety-four men—in all thirty-two ships and ten thousand one hundred and eighty-five men. The rejoicing in England for so signal a deliverance was profound and general. Elizabeth went in state to St. Paul's to return thanks; Lord Effingham received a pension for life; and all the chief officers of the fleet were rewarded with honors, or received the thanks of the Queen. Several pieces of money were coined to commemorate this victory. On one piece was a representation of a fleet flying under full sail, and the words, "*Venit, vidit, fugit*,"—"It came, it saw, it fled." The Dutch, on the occasion, had a large medal struck, on which was represented the Spanish fleet, with the words, "*Flavit Jehovah, et dissipati sunt*, 1588,"—"Jehovah blew, and they were scattered."

THE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION MEDALS.

THE United States Mint has delivered the first installment of bronze and silver Medals struck by authority of Congress for the Centennial Commission, and protected by the Coinage laws. They are beautiful in design and execution, and are intended as memorials of the great commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the nation's birth, and will be sold at \$1, \$2, \$3, and \$5 each, according to their respective styles, by the Centennial Board of Finance, and the proceeds will be applied toward defraying the expenses of the national celebration. The Mint will now turn out these Medals rapidly, and the Board will be able to supply the great demand for them that is pressing from all quarters.

SIAMESE CURRENCY.

IN the reign of the late King of Siam, the currency of the realm consisted of lead and zinc coins; copper coins were subsequently introduced, but these were so easy of imitation that counterfeits were soon in general circulation. "Cowries" were then used, and the copper coinage was withdrawn. The heads of gambling-houses—privileged institutions in Siam—put in circulation a "crockery currency," which they recall at pleasure. This crockery currency, however, is now to be recalled by the government, and paper notes of small denominations are to be generally used until a proper coinage is decided upon.

A PROPOSED MEDAL.

As far back as the year 1786, a Society of Arts existed in the West Indian island of Barbadoes. In that year this Society offered a Gold Medal for the discovery of a standard for the sense of smell; that is, a means of estimating the character and intensity of smells, similar to the standards which we possess for light, heat and sound. Thus we can analyze light with a prism, and ascertain its intensity by means of a photometer, but how can we analyze odors or estimate their intensity with any pretence to accuracy? No mode has ever been discovered, and the prize offered in 1786 has never been awarded.

MEDAL COMMEMORATIVE OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

Editors of the Journal of Numismatics :

It is said that a Professor in one of the Eastern colleges claims to have an original impression in lead from the dies referred to in the following paper. If such a Medal was ever struck, (or the dies prepared for the same,) it would be interesting in this time of Centennials, to have some definite account of it. Can any of your readers supply it?

H. R. L.

Washington, D. C., October 20, 1874.

In reply to an inquiry of the Director of the United States Mint, as to whether there existed in the Medal Department of the Mint at Paris, the die or a specimen of the Medal commemorative of the Declaration of American Independence, reported to have been struck in that city during the war of the Revolution, the Director of the French Mint replies as follows, under date of July 9, 1874:—"I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 13th of June last, relative to the Medal commemorative of the Declaration of American Independence, July 4, 1776, and regret to inform you that notwithstanding the most careful search, I have been unable to discover anything of it. It is not to be found in the collection of coins at the Museum of the Mint, neither is it mentioned in any French work in the Library."

Notwithstanding all this, the Medal does exist, and has been known for several years. In 1837, Mr. J. Francis Fisher, of Philadelphia, communicated a description of it to the Massachusetts Historical Society. (Third Series, Vol. VI, p. 290.) Impressions of both dies taken separately are in the possession of the writer, and also of M. Jules Marcou of Cambridge. The only perfect Medal I have ever seen was in W. E. Woodward's auction sale of October, 1863, lot 2691; it was of bronze, brought \$100, and is now in ownership unknown to me. It may be thus described. Obv. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; an eagle displayed, on his breast a shield,—Argent, six pales Gules, a chief Azure,—in his right claw an olive branch, in left thirteen arrows, in his mouth a ribbon inscribed E PLURIBUS UNUM; above a sun of thirteen stars, from which issue rays, passing through a circle of clouds, and extending below the wings of the eagle. Rev. TO PEACE AND COMMERCE.; in exergue, IV JUL.

MDCCLXXVI; to right, DUPRE. F.; at the left an Indian Queen, personifying America, is seated, holding in her left hand a horn containing fruits and grains; by her side are bales, a barrel and an anchor, to which she points with her right hand; at the right Mercury just alighted extends toward her his right hand; behind him is the ocean, on which at the extreme right is the forepart of a ship, and beyond this is land. Size 44. W. S. A.

After the articles above were in type, the following copy of the letter of April 30th, 1790, referring to this Medal, was received from Dr. Robert Morris, La Grange, Ky. This is a singular coincidence, as no communication had been made in relation to the subject. On referring to the authority it was thought of sufficient interest to continue the research through the term in office of the Secretary of State of the United States at that time. With the hope of finding some trace of the dies, we shall look further.—[Eds.]

Extract from a Letter from Thomas Jefferson to William Short, (Paris.)

"New York, April 30, 1790.

"It has become necessary to determine on a present proper to be given to diplomatic characters on their taking leave of us; and it is concluded that a medal and chain of gold will be the most convenient. I have, therefore, to ask the favor of you to order the dies to be engraved with all the despatch practicable. The medal must be of thirty lines* diameter, with a loop on the edge to receive the chain.

"On one side, must be the arms of the United States, of which I send you a written description, and several impressions in wax to render that more intelligible; round them, as a legend, must be 'The United States of America.'

"The device of the other side we do not decide on. One suggestion has been a Columbia (a fine female figure), delivering the emblems of peace and commerce to a Mercury, with a legend, 'Peace and Commerce,' circumscribed, and the date of our republic, to wit, 'IV JULY MDCCLXXVI,' subscribed as an *exergum*; but having little confidence in our own ideas in an art not familiar here, they are only suggested to you, to be altered, or altogether postponed to such better device as you may approve, on consulting with those who are in the habit and study of medals. Duvivier and Dupré seem to be the best workmen; perhaps the last is the best of the two.

"I am with great and sincere esteem,

"Dear Sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

"TH: JEFFERSON."

The Writings of Thomas Jefferson, by T. F. Randolph. Boston Edition, 1830, Vol. III., pp. 56-57.

"New York, July 26, 1790.

"The expenses for the medals, directed in my letter of April the 30th, must enter into the new account. As I presume the die will be finished by the time you receive this, I have to desire you will have a medal of gold struck for the Marquis de la Luzerne, and have put to it a chain of three hundred and sixty-five links, each link containing gold to the value of two dollars and a half, or thirteen livres and ten sous. The links to be of plain wire, so that their workmanship may cost as it were nothing.

"The whole will make a present of little more than one thousand dollars. As soon as done, be pleased to forward them by a safe hand to the Marquis de la Luzerne, in the name of the President of the United States, informing him that it is the one spoken of in my letter† to him of April 30th, 1790. Say nothing to any body of the value of the

* A line is the twelfth of an inch.

† To the Marquis de la Luzerne:

"You will receive, Sir, by order of the President of the United States, as soon as they can be prepared, a medal and chain of gold, of which he desires your acceptance, in token of their esteem, and of the sensibility with which they will ever recall your legation to their memory."

Ibid. p. 55.

present, because that will not be always the same, in all cases. *Be so good as to have a second medal of gold struck in the same die, and to send this second, together with the dies, to Philadelphia, by the first safe person who shall be passing; no chain to be sent with this.*"

Ibid. p. 61.

"Philadelphia, March 8, 1791.

"You are desired to have a medal of gold struck from the diplomatic die formerly ordered, and present it with a chain of gold to the Count de Moustier, who is notified that this will be done by you. I formerly informed you that we proposed to vary the worth of the present, by varying the size of the links of the chain, which are fixed at three hundred and sixty-five in number. Let each link, in the present instance, contain six livres' worth of gold, and let it be plain wire, so that the value may be in the metal and not at all in the workmanship.

"I shall hope to receive the dies themselves, when a safe conveyance presents itself."

Ibid. p. 86.

"Philadelphia, April 25, 1791.

"We leave to your agency the engaging and sending Mr. Drost as soon as possible." "If Mr. Drost undertakes assaying, I should much rather confide it to him than to any other person who can be sent. *It is the most confidential operation in the whole business of coining.*"

Ibid. p. 105.

"Philadelphia, August 29, 1791.

"You observe, that if Drost does not come, you have not been authorized to engage another coiner. If he does not come, there will probably be one engaged here. If he comes, I should think him a safe hand to send the diplomatic die by, as also all the dies of our medals, which may be used here for striking off what shall be wanting hereafter. But I would not have them trusted at sea, but from April to October, inclusive. Should you not send them by Drost, Havre will be the best route."

Ibid. p. 123.

"Philadelphia, June 14, 1792.

"To Mr. Pinckney, London :

"Congress, some time ago, authorized the President to take measures for procuring some artists from any place where they were to be had. It was known that a Mr. Drost, a Swiss, had made an improvement in the method of coining, and some specimens of his coinage were exhibited here, which were superior to anything we had ever seen.

"We have reason to believe he was drawn off by the English East India Company, and that he is now at work for them in England. Mr. Bolton has also made a proposition to coin for us in England, which was declined."

Ibid. p. 182.

"Philadelphia, April 20, 1793.

"To the same :

"With respect to Mr. Droz, we retain the same desire to engage him, but we are forced to require immediate decision. * * * * *

"If he is not embarked by the first of July next, we shall give a permanent commission to the present officer."

Ibid. p. 234.

At the dedication of a town hall in Saugus, Mass., last October, it was said that "near this spot was discovered the first iron ore in this country; here was cut, by Joseph Jenks, the die for stamping the old Pine Tree Shilling currency."

A new distinction—the Order of the Lyre—for persons eminent in the musical and dramatic professions, is, it is said, to be created in Germany. The Duke of Meiningen is also about to give a gold medal for distinguished services in the causes of science and art.

THE Forum of ancient Rome is to be uncovered.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND WEIGHING ROOM.

A NEWSPAPER correspondent gives the following interesting description of the weighing room of the Bank of England, and the temptations of the bullion room.

THE works of the machines by which the sovereigns are weighed, twelve in number, are delicate as a lady's watch; should a coin be the fractional part of a grain below the standard, the machine tips it over into a receptacle different from that into which the true gold is shot. Twenty-eight sovereigns a minute are disposed of by each machine, or one hundred thousand a day. It seemed—so nicely adjusted was this wonderful machine, as if it paused a moment to think, and trembled as it rejected the unworthy coin from its honester fellows. This mass of treasure, called indifferently "dross" or "filthy lucre," was to be seen by scuttlesfull, shovelled about as the farmer's man shovels horse-beans. A rich, glittering, tempting heap of seventy thousand sovereigns lay on the carefully-caged table, and we were, of course, not surprised to be informed that within our reach there were nearly four hundred thousand of these bits of shining gold, so hard to earn, so easy to spend. A bushel or so of half-sovereigns were, after what had gone before, quite beneath notice, but they looked pretty, and winked appealingly, as we gave them a casual glance. Sometimes as many as twenty thousand light coins were detected in a day. The pay-hall is a public room, but leading out of it is a chamber particularly private, and bearing the name of the Treasury. It is dark and cool—too rich, in fact, to have its repose ruffled by common storms or vulgar passions. There are in it one hundred and thirty-five massive safes, crammed with wealth; the Treasury is, in fact, a gigantic reservoir, at present containing thirty-five millions of money. One safe holds "garbled sixpences;" another is full of threepenny bits; one is sacred to old sovereigns; its neighbor takes care of the new. The doors of another safe were opened, and we stood silent before seventy bags of £1,000 each, each weighing twenty-one pounds. The route next passed through the gardens, once a city churchyard, into the dividend and Government debt offices, and across the bullion yard to the bullion room. Around the sides of this prison-like vault stood trucks laden with gold bars worth £1,600 each, a single truck-load being valued at not a farthing less than £80,000. Besides these there were trifling bags of gold coin running up the total amount to £3,000,000, to say nothing of a row of bags put like naughty children into a corner, because they held £4,000 of gold sovereigns.

THE SMUGGLER MEDAL.

THE Champion Medal won by Smuggler at the great stallion race has been shown us. It is a heavy gold Medal, bearing on its face the following inscription:—Awarded to H. S. Russell for Smuggler, Winner of the First Premium at Mystic Park, Sept. 15, 1874, by D. H. Blanchard. Time—2.23, 2.23, 2.20.—On the obverse is an engraving of the horse, encircled by the inscription "Stallion race for the championship of the United States." The engraving and inscribing have been done in the most elegant manner. It was on exhibition for a short time at the store of Messrs. Shreve, Crump & Low, corner of Washington and Summer Streets, Boston.

TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

A MEETING of the American Numismatic and Archæological Society was held at Mott Memorial Hall, New York City, on Tuesday evening, December 1st, 1874, Prof. Anthon, LL. D., President, in the chair.

The report of the Executive Committee was received and adopted, and in accordance therewith Messrs. A. C. Zabriskie of New York, Alex. Balmanno of Brooklyn, and Rev. George D. Mathews of New York, were declared elected to Resident Membership, and the name of the late Rev. Wm. Wood Seymour was ordered to be placed on the Honorary Roll.

Donations were received from Mr. W. H. Strobridge, of a catalogue of the Middleton Collection with two photograph plates, and from Mr. Rockwood the Bulletin of the American Metrological Society.

The Committee reported that the Society possessed thirteen complete sets of the first series (Volumes 1 to 4,) of the *Journal of Numismatics*, and some odd numbers. The Librarian, Mr. Isaac F. Wood, was authorized to dispose of these sets at \$20 per set until the 1st March, 1875, and to announce that after that time the price would be increased upon any of the said sets at that time unsold.

Formal letters had been addressed to Mr. Caylus of New York, and Mr. John Bowne of Washington, for their valuable donations to the Library.

It was announced that Mott Memorial Hall had been secured for meetings and the depositing of the Library and Cabinets.

There being only three impressions of the Lincoln Medal issued by the Society, remaining unsold, one was ordered to be placed in the Society's cabinet.

The following exhibition of coins and medals was made: By Mr. Parish, the set of four Centennial Medals, consisting of one each small silver and bronze, one each large bronze and electro gilt, recently struck at the Mint for the Centennial Board of Finance. Mr. Poillon exhibited the smallest Washington Medalet known, size 7, silver: Obv. bust of Washington to left; rev. star surrounded by rays. From the cabinet of Mr. Betts, a set of Swedish Dalers, composed of nineteen pieces, including varieties, and a plate Daler of Sweden, about six inches square, date 1716; also, a set of Russian coppers, consisting of 1, 3, 5 and 10 Kopeks, Catharine II., struck for Siberia. By Prof. Anthon, twenty-four Tetradrachms in splendid condition, viz.: Agathocles, Amphipolis, Agrigentum, Antiochus III. and XI., Archelaus, Aradus, Athens 1 and 2, Delphi, Demetrius I., Ephesus, Gela, Leontini, Locri Opuntii, Macedonia I. and II., Mithridates, Myrina, Panormus, Samos, Side, Thasos and Thurium.

The Society adjourned at 10 o'clock.

WILLIAM POILLON, *Secretary*.

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

July 2. A monthly meeting was held this day. The Secretary read the report of the last meeting, which was accepted; also two letters from Mr. Isaac F. Wood of New York, accompanying donations of a large lot of cata-

logues of auction coin sales, and the cancelled die of the Numismatic Society's side of the "Societies' Medal," so called, issued by Mr. Wood; for these the thanks of the Society were voted. The Secretary also read a letter from Mr. George C. Thompson of Philadelphia, to Mr. George W. Pratt of the Society, relating to the "Commercial" Dollar of 1872. Mr. Parmelee exhibited the mule of the Kentucky or Myddelton token with the Copper Company of Upper Canada, the very rare "fillet-head" Washington, and a token of Southampton, which has on the edge UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. The Secretary exhibited a few Medals lately added to his series of Admiral Vernon, which now numbers eighty-four varieties. The Society adjourned just before 5 P. M.

October 1. A monthly meeting was held this day. The Secretary read the report of the last meeting, which was accepted. Mr. Crosby exhibited the unique patterns of 1783 for 1000 and 500 units, and the mule of IMMUNE COLUMBIA with NOVA CONSTELLATIO. Mr. Pratt exhibited a Washington in silver, which is very rare in that metal, (No. 17 of the list by W. S. Appleton,) a gold crown of Charles I of England, and a copper coin of Mary of Scotland. The Society adjourned at 5 P. M.

November 5. A monthly meeting was held this day. The Secretary read the report of the last meeting, which was accepted. The President announced a donation of a number of United States cents from Rev. Samuel Cutler, for which the thanks of the Society were voted. He also called the attention of members to the death of one of their number, Mr. Philip S. Sprague, which took place at Montpelier, Vt., August 6. Mr. Holland exhibited tin medals of Agassiz and Hon. James Pollock, and another struck to commemorate the celebration by the Americans at Stuttgart in 1873 of the Fourth of July. The President showed a steel die for threepence of the Province of Massachusetts, 1752. This is the original die used in the stamp-office. It is a short steel bar attached to the circular part, the impression being made by a blow from a hammer. The Legislature of the colony had passed an act laying a tax on vellum, parchment, and all public documents, of a half-penny, two pence, three pence and four pence, according to the importance of the paper. The Secretary exhibited a specimen in bronze of the Medal of UPPER CANADA PRESERVED; on the edge is the name of the recipient, Sergeant W. Ross. The Society adjourned at 5 P. M.

W. S. APPLETON, *Secretary.*

THE "DE LEVI" MEDAL.

THE question has been asked, "Who is Francois Christopher de Levi," whose Bust and Arms appear on one of the Medals of the Canadian Series. In that Magnificent French Work, "*Tresor de Numismatique*," part 3, plate 6, fig. 6, is a representation of the De Levi Medal. In the description of the reverse, we have the following: "The arms of Fr. Chris. de Levis, Duc de Damville, are placed upon the royal mantle of France, and surmounted by a ducal crown. The arms are quartered. The first and fourth quarters being quarterly as follows: Or, 3 chevrons sable, the arms of de Levis; 2nd, Or, 3 bands gules, the arms of Thoire Villars; 3rd, Gules, 3 stars argent, the arms

of d'Anduse; 4th, Argent, a Lion gules, the arms of Layre. The second and third quarters are: Or, a cross gules with 6 Alerions azure, being the arms of Montmorency.

Fr. Chris. de Levis, Count de Brion, Duke de Damville, was fourth son of Amé de Levis, Duc de Ventadour, and of Marguerite de Montmorency, first *écuyer* of Gaston of France, Duke of Orleans, who inherited the Barony of Damville from his uncle Henry II., Duke of Montmorency. The title for several years remained in abeyance, but in 1648 the Count de Brion secured letters patent restoring it. In these letters it is stated that the title is renewed as a recompense for services rendered to the King, by the Count de Brion, who had served the Duke de Montmorency in Languedoc, having taken part in all the engagements against the *religionnaires*, also in the sieges of St. Antonin, Montaubin, Montpellier, and La Rochelle, in all of which engagements he had shewn great bravery. The count had also been charged with negotiating arrangements between the Count de Soissons and the Court, at the time when that Prince had retired to Sedan, a mission which he completed with success.

The Duke de Damville subsequently filled the important appointments of Governor of Limousin, Captain of Fontainebleau, and Vice Roy of America (1655). He died at Paris in 1661, leaving no children by his wife, Anne le Comes de Jambville.—*The Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal*, Oct., 1874.

SANFORD SALE.

By Bangs, Merwin & Co., New York, November 27, 1874. We give the prices of the most desirable pieces: Disme, in copper, \$35; Dollar, 1836, \$10; Dollar, 1794, \$180; do. of 1795, \$16; 1799, \$7; 1804, remarkably fine specimen and guaranteed an original, \$700; 1851, proof, \$40; 1853, proof, \$11. Proof sets, 1846, \$37.50; 47, same, 48, \$62.50; 49, \$37.50; 52, \$75; 54, \$60; 55, \$55; 56, \$50; 57, \$40; 58, \$18; 59, \$5.50; 60, \$10; 61, \$7; half dollar, 95, \$11; quarter do., 23, \$100; 42, \$10. Dime, 96, \$4; 1800, \$10; 28, \$4; half do., 1802, \$45. Washington Cent, half dollar die, \$27. Pine Tree Shilling, 1652, \$22, another, \$17. Massachusetts Cent, 1788, \$6. Kentucky Cent, in silver, 1796, "Myddelton," \$25.50, do. in copper, \$20. "Ameri" Cent, 1792, \$50; 1795, \$21; 1796, \$18; 1799, \$62.50; 1804, \$10.50; 1809, \$25. Half Cent, 1796, \$150. Silver Medal of President Lincoln, \$28. Swiss Medal of President Grant, \$45. Cyrus W. Field, \$11.50.

Priced catalogues of the sale can be obtained of Edward Cogan, 408 State Street, Brooklyn, New York.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

BUNGTON AND ITS COPPERS. Prof. Schele de Vere, in his "Americanisms," states that *Bungtown copper*, is in this country a favorite name of the spurious English half-penny; and that such a coin is said to have been formerly counterfeited in a place then called Bung-town, but since known as Rehoboth, in Massachusetts.

It is certainly the opinion of Mr. Crosby, and perhaps of most careful students of numismatics, that counterfeiters of the English half-penny have been executed in this country. But this is the first instance in which I have observed any attempt to fix the locality of their fabrication.

I have referred to Bliss's History of Rehoboth, but cannot learn that the place was ever called Bung-town, nor can I find any mention of the famous coppers. Can any reader of the *Journal* furnish information upon this subject?

October, 1874.

COMMODORE F. A. STEVENS, of the Norfolk Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va., has recently presented to the Boston English High School some rare and ancient coins, which are quite valuable. Com. Stevens graduated from the English High School in 1832, and holds it in grateful remembrance. The coins were brought here and presented by the hands of G. H. Quincy, Esq., of Newton.

IN the *American Historical Record* for October of last year, page 469, Charles Carroll of Carrollton is credited with the remark, that a man must have a hobby in order to attain old age.

It is reported on good authority, that on the last pennies coined at the British Mint, the head of the Queen really resembles her.

CURIOUS and ancient coins are found from time to time on the sand bar on Oyster Point, New Haven. After any storm the sand is washed up, and pieces of silver coin are exposed. None of those picked up bear a date less than ninety years back, while one is dated 1726, making it one hundred and forty-eight years old. The coins are English and Spanish silver pieces.

EDITORIAL.

WE earnestly hope that Congress will among its very first acts order an emission of a *ten cent* and a *twenty-five cent* piece, in silver, in sufficient amount to take the place of those denominations of the paper currency. The present price of silver offers no objection.

MR. ISAAC F. WOOD, of New York City, proposes to issue a Medal in commemoration of the services of Captain Nathan Hale of the war of the Revolution, (see Journal, Vol. IX, p. 36,) as one of the series which have been published by him.

A CATALOGUE OF THE GREEK COINS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM. ITALY. LONDON. ** 1873. Octavo, viii. 432.

We have chosen this volume for notice, as it should come as near as possible to perfection in numismatic book-making. It is an official work, prepared by Mr. Reginald S. Poole of the British Museum, and published with all the resources of a national institution. It "contains a Catalogue of the Coins of Ancient Italy in the British Museum, arranged according to the system of Eckhel. The metal of each coin is stated, and its size, in inches and tenths. The weight is given in English grains, of all gold and silver coins, and of all copper coins of known denominations. Tables for converting grains into French grammes, and inches into millimetres, as well as into the measures of Mionnet's scale, are placed at the end of the volume. The coins of the class of *Æs Grave*, not engraved in the '*Æs Grave del Museo Kircheriano*,' and those of all other classes not engraved in Carelli's '*Numorum Italiæ Veteris Tabulæ*,' have been for the most part engraved on wood, and each illustration placed after the corresponding description."

The extent and importance of the national collection of Great Britain are shown by the fact that this volume describes 264 coins of Neapolis, 487 of Tarentum, 151 of Thurium, 137 of Velia, 118 of Crotona, 115 of Rhegium, &c. The number of wood-cuts is so great that we have not attempted to count them. The matter is arranged in five columns on every page, the first containing the number of the coins, the second the weight, the third the metal and size, the fourth the description of the obverse, the fifth that of the reverse,—an admirable arrangement where space, and consequently expense, are of no importance. Abbreviations are freely used, but we think never so awkwardly as to cause confusion. In fact our most serious criticism is that the metals are distinguished by the initials *A. R. Æ.*, instead of *G.*, *S.*, *C.*, which would have been just as intelligible to every one, by whom the English text can be read. We advise all who are interested in antique coins, to obtain a copy. The next volume, to which we look forward, will contain the coins of Sicily.

CURRENCY.

BAD debts—owing grudges.

HUSH-MONEY—The price of a family cradle.

THE ready money system—Dun, or be done.

"MONEY is very tight," said a thief who was trying to break open a bank vault.

MR. NICKLE died in Michigan last week. He retained his five senses to the last.